

Permit Basics

Permits are required year round for day and overnight travel throughout the BWCAW. A quota permit is required from May 1 through September 30 to take an overnight paddle, motor, or hiking trip. The quota system regulates how many groups can start their trip from each entry point every day. This type of permit is also required to travel by motor for a single day on specific lakes which allow motor use. Motor permits are regulated by a weekly quota system.

Non-Quota Self-issuing permits can also be obtained for overnight travel between October 1 through April 30. These can also be used for non-motorized day used travel within the BWCAW as well as motorized travel into Little Vermilion Lake only between May 1 and September 30. These forms can be obtained through the mail, at Forest Service Offices, and at most BWCAW entry points. No reservations are necessary but make sure you fill out the entire permit and carry a copy of the permit with you at all times. The information below reviews fees and system basics in order to obtain a quota permit.

Permit Reservations

Reservation Fee

► A \$12.00 non-refundable reservation fee is required for each permit, overnight and day-use motor, that is reserved.

Overnight User Fee Deposit

► When making advanced reservations, you will be given the option to pay for the entire group. You will also have the option of changing the group size online within a one day window prior to their entry date. If cancelled outside the 2-day window, the card holder will be fully refunded. If cancelled within the 2-day window, 32.00 for 2 adults is retained and additional payments will be refunded. The Forest Service will retain the entire payment if the group is a no show. Groups of one only have to pay for one. A new confirmation letter will be generated each time a change is made. Adjustments to group sizes will be made at the permit issuing station as needed.

User Fees



User Fees

► User fees are required for all overnight visitors to the BWCAW between May 1 and September 30. This fee covers your entire stay under one permit. Fees are as follows:

User Fees Per Person Per Trip

Adult - \$16.00

Youth (0-17) - \$8.00

Interagency Senior/Access Card Holder - \$8.00

BWCAW Seasonal Fee Cards

The purchase of a BWCAW Seasonal Fee Card fulfills the user fees required for the season, but it does not eliminate the need for obtaining a BWCAW wilderness travel permit. For reserved permits it does not eliminate the need to pay the \$12.00 reservation fee and the user fee deposit. Seasonal Fee Cards may be purchased by mail after December 1 or by phone after February 1 from the BWCAW Reservation Center at Reserve America. They may also be purchased in person after May 1 from any Forest Service Permit Issuing Station.

Seasonal Fee Card Costs Per Person

Adult - \$64.00

Youth (0-17) - \$32.00

Interagency Senior/Access Card Holder - \$32.00

Selecting a Permit Issuing Station



You must know where you will pick up your permit when you make your reservation. You can select any issuing station, lists are provided on the reservation website, and in the trip planning guide. The reservation defaults the pickup location to the Forest Service District in which the entry point lies. This default issuing station may be further from the entry point than other issuing stations. For example, Moose River is within the LaCroix District (Cook) and this would be the default issuing station. Moose River is actually closer to the Kawishiwi District (Ely).

Picking Up a Permit

Permits can only be picked up the day before or the day of entry specified on your permit. Please check with your desired permit pick-up location to confirm their office hours. Remember to bring a photo ID and your confirmation letter with when you pick up your permit. Upon pickup the issuing station will show a

short user education video, review the rules and regulations, and go over any other necessary information.

Reserved Permits

► All reserved permits must be picked up at the location specified when the reservation was made or at a Forest Service issuing station. Only the trip leader or alternate trip leaders specified when the reservation was made can pick up the permit. It is recommended that you list three alternates when you make your reservation – these cannot be added at a later date. The person that picks up the permit must be with the group for the duration of the trip. Any remaining overnight user fees (not covered by the \$32.00 deposit), will be calculated when the permit is issued based on the group size upon arrival. The remaining fee will be collected at this time.

Non-Reserved Permits

► Non-Reserved overnight permits can be picked up at any issuing station if the quota has not been met for the entry point you have selected. These must also be made/picked up the day before or on the day of entry.

Payment

► Only Forest Service Offices can accept cash and checks, in addition to credit card payments. All discount cards (Interagency Senior/Access, Treaty Card holders, and BWCAW Seasonal Fee cards) must be presented at the time of permit pickup to receive a discount, otherwise a full user fee will be charged. Non-Forest Service permit pick-up locations may charge up to a \$2.00 fee to issue an overnight permit.

BWCAW Reservation Contacts

Website: www.recreation.gov

Phone (Toll-Free): (877) 550-6777

TDD (Toll-Free): (877) TDD-NRRS

International Calls: (518) 885-9964

Fax Number: (518) 884-9951

Mailing Address: PO Box 462 - Ballston Spa, NY - 12020